

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-4, 7-9 and 11-12 are amended to clarify that the subscriber station management system supervises and controls the operation of the subscriber stations by transmitting control signals via radio path and that the repeater is a radio repeater. Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending.

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Rhodes et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,900,437; hereafter "Rhodes") in view of Laham et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,442,372; hereafter "Laham") and claims 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Rhodes, Laham and Archambaud et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,304,560; hereafter "Archambaud"). Applicant traverses the rejection because the cited prior art references, analyzed individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims. For example, the cited prior art fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention wherein a subscriber station management system can be used to control both subscriber stations, by transmitting control signals via a radio path, and to control a repeater, by transmitting control signals via a radio path to a subscriber station which is connected to the repeater.

The Office Action asserted that Rhodes discloses all the features of independent claims 1, 4 and 9, except that the device connected to the subscriber station is a repeater. Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action is incorrect. In accordance with Rhodes, the subscriber station is the Subscriber Terminal (ST) 20 and the network element is the Central Terminal (CT) 10. However, there is no radio repeater or similar device disclosed by Rhodes.

Claim 1, 4 and 9 recite that a radio repeater is controlled by a subscriber station connected to the repeater. The Office Action asserted that such control is disclosed by Rhodes at col. 25, lines 58 – 62; however, that passage merely discloses that software is downloaded to the subscriber terminal 20 but fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the subscriber terminal would use that software to control a radio repeater connected to it, because there is no radio repeater.

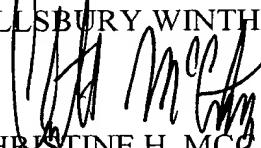
As a result, Rhodes fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed solution wherein the subscriber station management system may be used to control both subscriber stations, by transmitting control signals via a radio path, and may be used to control a repeater, by transmitting control signals via a radio path to a subscriber station which is connected to the repeater.

Laham fails to remedy the deficiencies of Rhodes because Laham merely teaches that it is advantageous to provide a repeater 30 with a single transmitter/receiver such that the control signals to the repeater can be transmitted among the other communication signals which the repeater forwards to the subscriber stations of the system (see Laham, col. 7, lines 3 - 46). As a result, the combined teachings of Rhodes and Laham fail to provide the recited solution detailed in the rejected claims, in particular, independent claims 1, 4 and 9, wherein a radio repeater would be connected to a subscriber station in such a way that the radio repeater is controlled by the subscriber station in response to control signals transmitted on the radio path to the subscriber station.

Archambaud similarly fails to remedy the deficiencies of the combined teachings of Rhodes and Laham because Archambaud merely teaches on the specific topic of wireless local loop systems. Therefore, the combined teachings of Rhodes, Laham and Archambaud fail to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims. Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are, thus, allowable over the cited prior art.

All issues having been traversed, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance and requests that a Notice be issued to that effect. If anything remains necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

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